

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 is **cancelled**.

2. **(currently amended)** The ~~assembly device of any one of claims~~ [[1]] 18, 19 and 20, wherein the flood space includes a clearance area between the liner and torque tube.

3. **(currently amended)** The ~~assembly device of any one of claims~~ [[1]] 18, 19 and 20, wherein the torque tube is a coiled drive shaft and the flood space includes gaps between the coils.

4. **(currently amended)** The ~~assembly device of any one of claims~~ [[1]] 18, 19 and 20, wherein the torque tube includes a lumen for a guide wire and the flood space includes the lumen.

5. **(currently amended)** The ~~assembly device of claim~~ [[1]] 19 or 20, further comprising a suction port for aspirating fluid from a the aspiration lumen ~~extending within a catheter~~ and wherein the ~~liner separates lower~~ pressure in the flood space is lower than the pressure from adjacent higher pressure outside or proximal to the flood space during operation of the device.

Claims 6-9 are **cancelled**.

10. **(currently amended)** The ~~assembly device of claim~~ [[1]] 20, wherein the sealing ~~member further assembly~~ comprises an overflow port for exit of excess liquid and wherein the torque tube extends through the overflow port.

Claims 11 -15 are cancelled.

16. **(currently amended)** The ~~medical~~ device of any one of claims [[1]] 18, 19 and 20, further including a drive system coupled to the torque tube to rotate the torque tube.

17. **(currently amended)** The ~~medical~~ device of any one of claims [[1]] 18, 19 and 20, ~~further including wherein proximal portions of the rotatable torque tube and liner are positioned in a hand held unit and the sealing assembly are housed within the hand held unit.~~

18. **(new)** An intracorporeal medical device having a rotatable torque tube and a sealing assembly for creating a liquid seal around the torque tube during operation of the device, the sealing assembly comprising a housing enclosing at least a portion of the torque tube in a manner that permits free rotation and axial translation of the torque tube, the housing including an infusion port providing a sealing liquid; and a liner surrounding the rotatable torque tube in the area of the infusion port and extending longitudinally less than the axial length of the torque tube, the liner forming a flood space within the inner surface of the liner whereby the sealing liquid enters the flood space and prevents air from entering the space external to the torque tube during operation of the device.

19. **(new)** An aspirating catheter device having a liquid seal assembly for creating a liquid seal in a medical device, the aspirating catheter system comprising: a torque tube operably connected to a drive system for rotation; a liner surrounding the rotatable torque tube to form a liquid flood space between the liner and the torque tube, the liner extending longitudinally less than the axial length of the torque tube and terminating at an intersect area; a catheter enclosing the torque tube and the liner and extending distally beyond the intersect area, the catheter forming an aspiration lumen between the catheter and the liner; whereby liquid drawn into the flood space during operation of the catheter system exits the flood space at the intersect area and enters the aspiration lumen.

20. **(new)** A medical device comprising: a rotatable torque tube operably connected to a drive system for rotation and a liner surrounding the torque tube and forming a flood space extending from a sealing assembly along at least a portion of the torque tube to an intersect area;

a catheter enclosing at least a portion of the torque tube and the liner and forming an aspiration lumen between the catheter and the liner, the catheter enclosing the intersect area of the liner; and a sealing assembly in communication with an infusion port providing application of liquid to the flood space during operation of the device.

21. **(new)** A device of claim 19 or 20, wherein pressure within the flood space decreases along the length of the liner in a distal direction during operation of the device.

22. **(new)** A device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the inner diameter of the liner is from about 0.030 to about 0.040 inch.

23. **(new)** A device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the length of the liner is more than about 6 inches.

24. **(new)** A device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the liner comprises a thin, tough, flexible polymer-based tubing material.

25. **(new)** A device of claim 24, wherein the liner comprises polyimide tubing and has a lubricious coating.

26. **(new)** A device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein proximal portions of the torque tube and liner are positioned in a housing in a manner that permits free rotation and axial translation of the torque tube.

27. **(new)** A device according to any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the length and diameter of the liner forming the flood space are selected to reduce the rate of flow in the proximal to distal direction in the flood space and reduce the requirement for precise diametrical tolerances during operation of the device.